

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-5, 10-19 and 27. Please amend claims 1, 20 and The currently pending claims are listed below.

1       6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for managing access to computer  
2 resources ~~based on valuations of work items of a program relative to their respective estimated~~  
3 ~~processing costs~~, the method comprising:

4             ~~providing a scheduling manager; and,~~  
5             defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of work items to be processed by one  
6 or more data processing systems;  
7             comparing the respective valuation of each respective said work item to a respective cost of  
8 accessing additional computer resources necessary to process the work item; and  
9             dynamically managing the access of additional computer resources by respective ones of  
10 the work items if the respective valuation of each of the work items exceeds the respective cost of  
11 ~~processing~~ accessing additional computer resources necessary to process corresponding ones of  
12 the work items.

1       7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2 each work item.

1       8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2 preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3 whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1       9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising having the priority algorithm  
2 increase respective valuations of delayed work items so as to complete processing of each of the  
3 work items prior to or at a cut-off processing date of the work item.

10 - 19. (Cancelled)

1       20. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for use in a networked  
2       environment including a grid of computing resources, and a request manager of the grid to receive  
3       requests of one or more customers for utilization of computing resources of the grid; wherein one  
4       or more computer systems of a customer is coupled to the request manager and include one or  
5       more processors; a memory coupled to at least the one processor; and, a scheduling manager  
6       residing in the memory and executable by the at least the one processor, comprising the steps of:

7             defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of work items to be processed;  
8             comparing the respective valuation of each respective said work item to a respective cost  
9             of accessing computing resources of said grid of computing resources necessary to process the  
10             work item; and

11             dynamically managing the access of ~~additional computer~~ computing resources of said grid  
12             of computing resources by respective ones of the work items if the respective valuation of each of  
13             the work items exceeds the cost of ~~processing~~ accessing computing resources or said grid of  
14             computing resources necessary to process corresponding ones of the work items.

1       21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2       each work item.

1       22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2       preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3       whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1       23. (Currently Amended) A method of providing fee-based processing for programs in a  
2 processor system, whereby fees are based on ~~projected~~ utilization of computer resources ~~to be~~  
3 ~~used~~ for completing processing a program, the processor system including at least one processor;  
4 a memory coupled to the at least one processor, and a scheduling manager residing in the  
5 memory, the method comprising the steps of:

6             defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of programs to be processed;  
7             comparing the respective valuation of each respective said program to a respective  
8 projected fee for utilization of computer resources to process said program;

9             ~~having the scheduling manager being executable for dynamically managing the access of~~  
10 ~~additional~~ computer resources to be applied to a program based on the respective valuation  
11 ~~valuations of work items~~ of a program that is to be processed; and[,]

12             ~~a mechanism for predicting costs~~ assessing a fee for the dynamically ~~determined~~  
13 managed access of computer resources to be used.

1       24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2 each work item for establishing the valuation of each work item.

1       25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2 preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3 whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1       26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the dynamic determination is based on  
2 different attributes of the one or more work items forming at least part of a program.

27. (Cancelled)